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CONTRIBUTIONS INCREASE IDB LENDING RESOURCES

FL022030 Bridgetown CANA in English 1849 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 2, CANA -- Contributions from the 25 Latin American member countries of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) including Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, will total some 7,994 million dollars (U.S.) over the next four years, a statement from the bank's Bridgetown office has said.

The new allocations came out of a recent decision by the bank's board of governors to increase its resources by 15.7 billion dollars over the period 1983-86. It will enable the bank to lend a projected 13 billion dollars (U.S.) in freely convertible currencies to the region during that period.

The bank's largest single contributor, the United States, has been allocated some 5,156 million dollars, while the 16 non-regional countries will pay 1,049 million dollars and Canada, 651 million dollars. An additional 151 million dollars will be unallocated.

Out of the recommended 15 billion dollar increase in the authorised capital stock, some 668 million dollars (or four and a half per cent) would consist of paid-in capital entirely in freely convertible currency, and over 14 billion dollars would be callable capital.

The latter, which it has never been necessary to call on, constitutes in effect, a guarantee of the securitities the bank places in the world's capital markets in order to obtain resources for lending. It does not have to be paid in by the member countries unless required to meet obligations created by bank borrowings.

Other increases recommended include 703 million dollars for the Fund for Special Operations (FSO), the bank's concessional, or soft-loan window. The entire amount is to be paid in by the member countries.

Contributions to the fund will be made in the following proportions: the United States. 290 million dollars, the Latin American countries, 196 million dollars, the 16 non-regional countries, 178 million dollars, and Canada, 39 million dollars.

The creation of an intermediate financing facility to subsidise interest payable on up to 800 million dollars in loans from the capital resources during the next four years was also recommended. Through this facility, eligible member countries will have access to resources which it is estimated will be sufficient to decrease by up to five percentage points, the interest rate on loans from the capital resources.

The new facility will be funded with 61 million dollars from the FSO's general reserve in addition to about 15 million annually from the FSO's net income, allocated for a 20 year period.

These increases are scheduled to come into effect on or before October 31, 1983, or on such other date as the board of executive directors may determine when member countries have agreed to subscribe at least 935,000 of the 1,243,428 shares represented in the 15-billion-dollar capital increase and not less than 527 million dollars of the increase for the fund for special operations.

The bank said the additional resources will enable it to steadily increase its lending volume for Latin America's development during the four-year period at an average growth rate which could approximate 14 per cent [per] annum during the same period.

Projections indicate that the lending in convertible currencies will rise from more than 2.6 million dollars in 1983 to 3.9 million dollars in 1986.

In its report, the board of governors said that since the international economic downturn has extended longer than anticipated, and external financing has become less accessible and more costly, the Latin American region confronts a critical period in the years immediately ahead.

"That is," the report said, "the substantial gains of the past two decades are jeopardised unless the mounting problems can be adequately solved."

It warned that "failure to meet this challenge would also have serious consequences for the OECD (the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries, which participate in over two-thirds of the region's foreign trade."

Said the governors: "Over the next decade, Latin America will face a number of basic challenges in agricultural development, food production, industrial transformation, energy development and resource utilisation, at a time when it is simultaneously adjusting to an urbanisation process, the scope and speed of which is unprecedented in history."

FILM ON FALKLANDS WAR, ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY SET

PY022222 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1923 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 2 Mar (NA) -- Military sources have reported that a film on the Malvinas war with an "objective point of view" will be broadcast by channel 13 on 2 April, on the anniversary of the reoccupation of the archipelago.

Military sources reported that this film includes shots that the general public in Argentina has not seen on developments in the South Atlantic war, but which "are similar to the ones that have been broadcast in Great Britain and other parts of the world."

The sources also said that another film on the Malvinas war, that is being edited by French journalists, will be also shown on 2 April in France.

Moreover, the sources confirmed that the joint General Staff is preparing a ceremony to be held on 2 April in which the three branches of the Armed Forces will commemorate the first anniversary of the reoccupation of the Malvinas.

WEHBE RECEIVES SOVIET TRADE DELEGATION 1 MAR

PY021605 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2105 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Mar (DYN) -- Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe today admitted that trade with the Soviet Union has a "weak basis" due to the very large imbalance favoring Argentina. These remarks were made in response to the Soviet demands regarding the need to increase imports from that country.

The economy minister openly admitted the Soviet position during a reception given by the Argentine-Soviet Chamber of Commerce for the Soviet mission headed by Boris Gordeyev, Soviet deputy minister of foreign trade, at noon today.

On this occasion, Wehbe said that the current trade rapprochement between the two countries "is not temporary," but is part of a policy of "diversification of commercial trends" being implemented by Argentina.

However, regarding the basis of the current Soviet negotiations, Wehbe said that trade "has a weak basis due to the large imbalance (favoring Argentina) in bilateral exchange" and that it was "necessary" to improve the terms of Argentine-Soviet trade.

Wehbe emphasized that "there are many possibilities for importing products from the Soviet Union and large public projects can be part of this." He said, however, that this objective "it is not easy" and cannot be achieved "in a short time." This was how the economy minister explained the demands conveyed by Deputy Minister Gordeyev to the Argentine Government regarding a request for Argentina to increase the purchase of Soviet products so as to moderate the large trade imbalance.

In general terms, sources linked to the Soviet mission indicated that during 1982 Argentine sales to the USSR were about $3.2 to $3.5 billion but that Argentina only purchased goods worth about $20 million.

Sources that have been consulted explained in this regard that the Soviet aspiration is not excessive since they only want to export the equivalent of at least 10 percent of their imports, that is, $300 million a year, particularly in heavy equipment.

The equipment which the USSR wants to sell Argentina, and which is compatible with equipment already in existence, involves railroad and oil equipment in addition to an important participation in large projects such as the Middle Parana hydroelectric project and the Piedra de Aguila powerplant.

Regarding today's activities, the Soviet mission, in addition to making a "courtesy visit" to Minister Wehbe, met for approximately 1 hour with Maritime Interests Secretary Ciro Garcia to discuss matters related to the participation of Argentine and Soviet ships in bilateral trade and fishing matters.

Regarding bilateral trade, Garcia said that "the transport of cargo in general is being carried out in a normal manner in accordance with the established agreements, but that is not the case with grain and cold storage cargo where equal participation has not been achieved" since Argentine ships only transport 15 percent of the total.

Regarding fishing -- a matter which is not under Gordeyev's jurisdiction -- Ciro Garcia said that a joint research campaign may be agreed on soon and that "contacts have been made" with Argentine private fishing companies to make up mixed companies to fish south of the 46th parallel.

In addition to these meetings, the visitors worked practically the whole afternoon in the Commerce Secretariat in search of a last minute understanding aimed at preparing a joint communique to be released by Commerce Secretary Alberto Fraguio tomorrow.

At any rate, it is believed that the joint declaration -- part of diplomatic rules and protocol -- is not going to be too explicit regarding the Soviet demands because the matter under discussion will be settled during the Moscow meeting scheduled toward the end of this year.

Increased Soviet Imports Viewed

PY022030 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1553 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Mar (DYN) -- Commerce Secretary Alberto Fraguio today revealed that a "political decision" has been made to take care, on a priority basis, of the needs of Soviet heavy equipment exporters. He also labeled the report about his resignation, coming while he was negotiating with the Soviet trade mission, as "treason to the fatherland."

Fraguio today gave a press conference basically to discuss the preliminary results of the negotiations with Boris Gordeyev, Soviet deputy minister of foreign trade, and Argentine prospects and strategy on export matters.

In this regard and in view of a question about his possible resignation, Fraguio said that "I am not used to making denials and I do not want to make judgments." He then said -- raising his voice -- that the release of those reports "is a great calamity for the country."

He said: "When negotiations as important as these are being carried out, no responsible country in the world takes away power in this manner from the main negotiator. I clearly see this as treason to the fatherland."

He then said that "I see those who originated the report and those who disseminated it as equally responsible" (the unofficial report came from highly responsible Economy Ministry officials), adding that "I feel sorry for those who wrote it."

Just the same, Fraguio did not confirm or deny the report that he was leaving his position at the conclusion of the negotiations with the Soviets.

He confirmed, however, that one of the main objectives of the mission headed by Gordeyev was to get an increase in Argentine imports from the USSR in view of the large imbalance in the bilateral trade which, according to Fraguio, shows that Argentine exports last year amounted to $2.7 to 2.8 billion and imports only $20 to 30 million.

The joint communique released today says that "regarding trade -- the Soviet delegation put emphasis on its interest in promoting the comercialization of its products on the Argentine market, keeping in mind the Argentine intention of increasing the purchase of Soviet products, including commodities and equipment."

Fraguio indicated that Soviet aspirations "in no way consider reaching an equilibrium (of bilateral trade) because the difference in the relative sizes of the economies of the two countries must be kept in mind," but that Argentina must substantially increase its imports from that country.

He revealed that, in fact, "a political decision has been made by the Argentine Government (through the state enterprises) to satisfy, on a priority basis, the proposals of the Soviet exports."

Regarding the purchase of Argentine grains, the commerce secretary said that in 1983 the USSR will again purchase substantially more than the figures in the bilateral agreement -- 4 million tons of grain and 500,000 tons of soybeans -- reaching an overall total of 14 million tons "an perhaps even surpassing that."

AGUIRRE LANARI DISCUSSES FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES

PY021942 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2117 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 1 Mar (NA) -- Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari said today that reports about the possible exclusion of the Malvinas Islands issue from the agenda of the upcoming Nonaligned Movement Summit, to be held in India, are part of a "psychological campaign conducted by Great Britain."

Aguirre Lanari also noted that West European countries have full confidence in Argentina's economic recovery.

He also remarked that the announcement that general elections would be held on 30 October 1983 has elicited positive reactions.

Talking over the phone from the FRG with NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, Aguirre Lanari said that "Argentina's rights over the Malvinas remain a major issue that will be addressed by the Nonaligned Movement meeting."

Concerning press reports published here today about the possible exclusion of the Malvinas issue from the Nonaligned Meeting's agenda, the foreign minister remarked that "the possibility that those false reports are part of a psychological campaign conducted by Great Britain cannot be ruled out."

Aguirre Lanari also revealed that he and the Argentine ambassadors to West European countries discussed the Argentine foreign debt during a meeting held today. However, he made clear that although the topic does not fall within his jurisdiction, "some ambassadors who contacted representatives of financial institutions told me that there is full confidence in our country and in its economic recovery."

Aguirre Lanari did not specify whether he and the ambassadors considered how to counteract what is regarded as a new phase of the anti-Argentine campaign over the missing, but he admitted that "an orchestrated campaign is under way. It is deplorable that a campaign stirring up the missing persons' issue has been launched, now that we are determined to vindicate Argentina's rights over the Malvinas," he remarked.

Aguirre Lanari met the Argentine ambassadors to Spain, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy and the Netherlands, Enrique Ros, Gerardo Schamis, Jorge Casal, Juan Carlos Katzenstein, Rodolfo Luchetta and Julio Barberis, respectively. The meeting took place at the Argentine Consulate in Frankfurt, FRG.

The foreign minister reported that deliberations continued tonight at what he called a "working dinner" and that a new meeting would be held tomorrow before his departure for New Delhi, India. He is scheduled to leave at 1100, FRG time.

Concerning the reactions that the announcement that general elections will be held on 30 October 1983 elicited abroad, Aguirre Lanari said that "all comments have been positive." He stressed that all of the reactions toward "the institutionalization of our country, a task that has been undertaken by both the government and the Armed Forces," have been positive.

Aguirre Lanari stressed that "our unyielding will to vindicate Argentina's rights over the Malvinas remains unchanged and we will not yield in our struggle to recover those territories, no matter what obstacles we encounter."

"We will do all in our power to have the Malvinas issue included on the agendas of all international forums," he said.

The meeting with the ambassadors was also attended by Foreign Ministry Cabinet Chief Gustavo Figueroa, press spokesman Oscar Fernandez Suarez and adviser Juan Carlos Krekler.

FLOODS FORCE SUSPENSION IN TRAIN SERVICE

PY021851 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2241 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Feb (TELAM) -- Due to the serious flooding affecting large areas of the Argentine coast and to the rising of the Parana River which is preventing trains from crossing by ferry to Paraguay, Argentine railroads reported this afternoon that all traffic with Paraguay's Carlos A. Lopez Railroad has been suspended.

It reported also that beginning today, the anticipated sales of tickets for the Salto Grande train traveling between the stations Federico Lacroze of Buenos Aires and Corcordia of Entre Rios have been suspended.

Tickets are being sold on a day by day basis, provided that conditions in the Entre Rios zones affected by the floods allow the trains to run at night.

ETCHEVERRY BONEO NAMED ENVOY TO MEDIATIONS

PY022217 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2035 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Mar (NA) -- The executive branch has named Ambassador Ricardo Etcheverry Boneo as chief of Argentina's mission to the papal mediation over the border dispute with Chile.

Until now Etcheverry Boneo had been alternate chief of the mission. He now replaces Ambassador Carlos Ortiz de Rozas.

'EXPIRATION DATE' ON 'REPUDIATED REGIME' LAUDED

PY030059 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2043 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Mar (DYN) -- Athos Fava, secretary general of the Argentine Communist Party, lauded the message that the president addressed to the nation on Monday and in which he announced that the government will be handed over the constitutional authorities in 1984. Fava praised the speech "because it has placed an expiration date on this repudiated regime."

Speaking at a party rally in this capital, Fava indicated that the holding of elections on 30 October "will allow us to undertake our political and electoral task with much more security."

"Elections without a front of the popular forces that make up a majority in the country," he continued," will not, by themselves, ensure a solution to the very serious structural problems that the country is suffering nor will they ensure the stability of the future elected government."

Finally, after not agreeing with the length of time between the elections and the handing over of the government -- 3 months -- Fava asserted that "one single party will not be able to resolve these problems, we must all resolve them."

NEW PUBLIC INFORMATION SECRETARY TAKES OFFICE

PY022218 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] President Reynaldo Bignone presided over the ceremony in which Col Clodoveo Battesti (retired) took office as new public information secretary. He replaces Pastor Oscar Magdalena who resigned a few days ago.

COURT ORDERS GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE PRISONER

PY011945 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2054 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 28 Feb (DYN) -- The Supreme Court has ordered the executive branch to allow Nelfa Rufina Suarez de Taboade, who has been detained since 1974 on charges of involvement in subversive activities, to leave the country in less than 15 days. The court has stated that her detention cannot go on "sine die" (indefinitely), it was reported in court sources.

FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS FOR NEW DELHI CONFERENCE

PY021230 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The foreign minister left for New Delhi yesterday, Tuesday, and will arrive there tomorrow, Thursday. Mario Velarde Dorado will represent Bolivia at the Nonaligned Movement Summit meeting which will be opened officially on Friday.

The minister will represent President Hernan Siles Zuazo at the meeting of heads of state called by the United Nations [as heard]. The president has declined to go to New Delhi, India, since the many days it takes to travel to the other side of the earth is a negative factor for him.

Foreign Minister Velarde Dorado also plans to visit several countries in Europe and the Middle East, as well as the United States. According to official reports, the minister has received invitations from the Israeli, Hungarian, Egyptian and U.S. presidents. It was explained, however, that those visits will depend on the time taken by the conference of the presidents of the Nonaligned Movement.

VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVES GDR DELEGATION 23 FEB

PY021911 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 24 Feb 83 p 8

[All German names as published]

[Excerpt] Eberhard Fench, head of GDR's Socialist Unity Party -- SED -- delegation that is visiting Bolivia, yesterday said that the GDR's international policy is aimed at nuclear disarmament.

The delegation, which is made up of Joerg Schwieg, Alfredo Templer, Werner Muller and Ambassador to Bolivia Arthur Hoeltse, yesterday paid a visit to Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora.

Fench told the vice president that the GDR supports the USSR's proposal to create a totally demilitarized zone free from missles and other nuclear device on both sides of the boundary between the socialist and capitalist systems. This zone would be 150 km wide on each side of the boundary.

He added that his country had offered all of its territory to implement this project and that this offer was also made to the FRG, which "did not react in a positive manner."

Fench said: "Our foreign policy is aimed at peace. We do not want German soil to be the source of another war ever again."

The Bolivian vice preisent expressed his wish that the "visit of the delegation yield positive results and will be the beginning of a relationship at all levels."

He added that in the past, due to international pressures, Bolivia followed a very wide-ranging international policy with America and Western Europe while "it seemed that with socialist Europe, our relations had to remain within the boundaries of technical cooperation alone."

He concluded by saying that "within this democratic process we hope to enjoy full sovereignty concerning our rights to have relations with all the nations of the world."

BARBIE'S EXCHANGE FOR MIRAGE PLANES DENIED

PY011950 Paris AFP in Spanish 2024 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] La Paz, 28 Feb (AFP) -- Bolivian Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena has regarded as absolutely false local reports on the alleged exchange of Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie for 12 French Mirage planes.

Denying the report, the minister said: I don't believe Altman (Barbie's nickname) is worth 12 Mirage planes.

He noted that it would be shameful for the country to consider or to accept something like this and invited newsmen to visit the El Alto military base to see whether the alleged French planes are there.

HAVANA CITES PAPER ON COUP PREPARATIONS

PA281546 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] According to the newspaper JORNADA, which circulates in La Paz, Bolivia, the civilian and militaty opponents of President Hernan Siles Zuazo's government recently held secret meetings to prepare a coup d'etat, thus attempting to undermine the Bolivian economy.

The newspaper provided no further details. Neither did it mention the names of the alleged participants in these meetings.

BRIEFS

CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS -- Yesterday afternoon President Hernan Siles Zuazo received the credentials of new concurrent Cypriot Ambassador Kripos Kripianou. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Feb 83 PY]

CLOSING OF EL EXPRESO -- (Aldo Flores), leader of the printers' union, has told Radio Illimani that no solution has been found yet to the closing of the newspaper El EXPRESO, which has left more than 40 families without jobs. He said that some negotiations are being carried out at the Labor Ministry seeking the reopening of this source of job opportunities, which was closed arbitrarily. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Feb 83 PY]

OIL RESERVES -- The Bolivian Government Oil Deposits (YPFB) has disclosed that the Bolivian reserves of oil condensate and crude oil found by foreign drilling companies since 1977 amount to 27 million barrels. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Feb 83 PY]

ERNANE GALVEAS SEES INFLATION PASSING 70 PERCENT

PY021233 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Finance Minister Ernane Galveas has said that the government will not be able to keep this year's inflation rate under 70 percent, as was previously agreed upon with the IMF.

Galveas gave no new figures but said that the government will work hard to bring inflation well below the 1982 rate of 99.7 percent.

The minister, who spoke at the ceremony at which New Finance Ministry Secretary General Mailson Ferreira da Nobrega was sworn in, said that 1982 was a tough year for Brazil and that 1983 does not look any better, contrary to what he had expected.

We will have to work hard to reach the expected balance of payments surplus, and we will have to change our goals in our struggle against inflation in 1983, Galveas added.

IMF Grants $5.46 Billion Loan

PY022119 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 1 Mar 83

[Text] The Board of Directors of the IMF has approved a $5.46 billion loan for Brazil which will be disbursed over a 3-year period. The IMF has also approved the Brazilian Government's economic program up to December 1985. Before 15 March Brazil will receive from the IMF three checks for the total amount of $918.8 million.

On Thursday Brazil will receive $271.8 million plus $508 million corresponding to the second portion of the compensatory loan granted to cover the drop in export prices. The Board of Directors of the IMF has pointed out that Brazil has promised to reduce government expenditures in order to reduce the 1982 budget deficit by half in 1983.

SOVIET OCEANOGRAPHIC SHIP DOCKS IN RIO 1 MAR

PY021925 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Mar 83 p 8

[All Soviet names as published]

[Text] The Soviet oceanographic ship "Professor Shtokman" has moored at the Praca Maua pier with a crew of 54, most of them biologists, oceanographers, botanists and zoologists who will participate, with French experts, in Amazon River research.

Four Brazilian scientists will board the ship, which will leave on Thursday for Belem, Para state. It will then continue up the Amazon River to meet with the team of Professor Jacques Cousteau aboard the "Calypso."

The "Professor Shtokman" arrived in Guanabara Bay at 0600 and docked at noon. Its commander, Kazak Rein, and the chief scientist, Gordeev Vijacheslaw, went ashore immediately to fulfill a program of visits prepared by the Soviet Consulate in Rio de Janeiro.

The second in command, Latozha Ionas-Vitautas, declined to talk about the characteristics of the oceanographic ship, its laboratories and equipments, arguing that only the commander and the head of the scientific team are authorized to do so. He reported that the research on the Amazon River will be the first for a Soviet scientific team in Brazil, and that it will last from 3 to 4 months.

The Soviet oceanographic ship is white and has some markings in Russian on the stern. On realizing that the ship was being photographed yesterday afternoon, the second in command ordered a sailor to straighten the red flag with the hammer and sickle, which was half wrapped around the mast.

A team of the Rio de Janeiro Telecommunications Company yesterday afternoon installed aboard the "Professor Shtokman" a telephone line with the number 263-6688, which will be used by the crew.

FIGUEIREDO SEEKS 'POLITICAL TRUCE' TO END CRISIS

PY020124 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] In a message sent today to the National Congress to mark the opening of this year's congressional session, President Figueiredo proposed the launching of a crusade to overcome the crisis the country is experiencing. Everyone, not only the government, should participate in this crusade which should not only include traditional values but should reach unprecedented levels, Figueiredo said.

The president bluntly stated that the people's basic demands should be urgently attended to because otherwise there exists the possibility of the sociopolitical stability being disrupted.

Complying with its duty to solve the country's current problems, Figueiredo said, the government will adopt a number of measures, especially in the economic and social sector, many of which will be immediately submitted for the consideration of the legislative branch.

In the message, which was delivered to Senate President Nilo Coelho by Civilian Household Chief Leitao de Abreu, President Figueiredo outlined the causes of the national economic crisis.

Figueiredo stated that as a result of the second major oil price increase and of its consequences, developed countries attempted to balance their trade balance and to bring inflation under control by adopting policies designed to protect their domestic production. This caused a sharp decline in demands and consequently caused stagnation in international trade, which affected primarily developing countries.

Developing countries were hardest hit by the crisis since in addition to increasing their oil expenditures they were confronted with a sharp reduction in their exports. In the case of Brazil, the import-export ratio has dropped by nearly 40 percent since 1979.

Therefore, Figueiredo said, developed countries restricted their supply of capital and increased their interest rates to levels which are the highest in the past 50 years. All this worsened the crisis and this vicious circle reached its peak last September when several Latin American countries failed to service their foreign debts.

As a result of the crisis, Brazil had to turn to the IMF last December to bring its foreign debt under control and to comply with its foreign commitments. At this point of his message, the president warned that future economic prospects such that the entire society will have to endure further sacrifices in the next few years and that voluntary participation by the Brazilian people and by all government sectors in a policy of austerity will be essential to successfully implement the government's stabilization plan.

Figueiredo also announced that the government will directly intervene to solve the problem represented by the excessive concentration of people in urban areas, where nearly 60 percent of the Brazilian population are now residing.

Still referring to the socioeconomic area, Figueiredo emphasized the need to solve problems related to agrarian issues, educational reform, and to the need to protect and to give incentive to small business sectors, which are important sources of jobs.

Concerning political issues, Figueiredo outlined the efforts made by the government to restore democracy in the country in the period between the issuance of the amnesty law up until the 15 November election. He stated that the political opening will now be entering a decisive stage since the political system developed through elections will have to prove capable of responding with intelligence and commonsense to those major issues it will have to face.

Reaffirming his support for a pluralist, liberal democracy, a system he has practiced and which is most instrumental in solving social and political problems stemming from a changing society, Figueiredo advocated the need to reach consensus without precluding discussions and to be receptive to what is demonstrably true by rejecting intransigent dogmatism.

Figueiredo proposed that a spirit of accord, of negotiation be observed now and throughout the duration of the crisis as a minimum, indispensable instrument to overcome this crisis and that in the face of the difficulties that are befalling the country, a political truce be observed to overcome these serious problems more easily in an atmosphere of understanding and cooperation.

This understanding, Figueiredo said, will create an atmosphere conductive to drafting bills proposing reforms which will soon be submitted to Congress.

Proposals amending traditional legal instruments will also be submitted to Congress. Other significant proposals concerning fiscal, economic and sociopolitical issues -- including some regulating the mixed district vote established in the Constitution -- will also be submitted to Congress.

After stating that all states are equal before the Constitution and that the federal government will respect their autonomy and their rights, the president emphasized the significance this year's session will have because it could mark the occurrence of unprecedented political developments for our institutions.

Figueiredo concluded his message by stating that Brazilians are watching full of confidence the action of their congressmen toward building a system in which accord, prosperity, security and justice will prevail.

OPPOSITION DEPUTIES CREATE INVESTIGATIVE BODIES

PY021306 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 2 March 83

[Excerpt] Opposition party leaders have decided to create three congressional investigative committees in the Chamber of Deputies.

The committees will investigate the foreign debt and the IMF loans, the BNH -- National Housing Bank -- involvement in the Delfin Financial Corporation's bankruptcy and the participation of the Capemi Agriculture and Livestock Development Corporation in the Tucurui area.

HIGHER FEDERAL COURT RELEASES JOURNALISTS

PY021931 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The Higher Federal Court has ordered the release of the Rio Grande do Sul journalists of the monthly "COOJORNAL" who were arrested on charges of having violated the national security law.

The decision was made by judge [words indistinct] that permitted the immediate release of the four journalists, who had been serving their sentences at the Madre Pelletier women's prison in Porto Alegre.

JOURNALIST INDICTED FOR VIOLATING SECURITY LAW

PY021239 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Justice Minister Ibrahim Abi-Ackel has just forwarded to military prosector (Newton Menendes da Costa Filho) a request from National Intelligence Service [SNI] Chief Gen Octavio Medeiros and Agriculture Minister Amaury Stabile to bring journalist Jose Carlos de Assis, from the newspaper FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, to trial on charges of having violated the national security law.

The ministers' request is based on an article signed by journalist Jose Carlos de Assis published in last Sunday's issue of FOLHA DE SAO PAULO. The article entitled: "$10 Million Exacted from Capemi [an agricultural enterprise linked to a private fund founded and made up of military officers] Through Collusion" is considered offensive to the SNI and the Agriculture Ministry.

BRIEFS

NEW MAYOR OF SALVADOR -- Salvador -- Bahia Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes yesterday installed Manuel Castro as the new mayor of Salvador, capital of Bahia State. [Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Feb 83 p 4 PY]

NEW MILITARY COURT PRESIDENT -- Brasilia (O GLOBO) -- Adm Octavio Sampaio Fernandes and Gualter Godinho have been appointed president and vice president, respectively, of the Suerior Military court. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Feb 83 p 5 PY]

MORE CASES OF LEPTOSPIROSIS -- According to the director of Emilio Rivas Hospital another 13 persons have been interned with leptospirosis since Monday. This makes a total of 45 patients being treated for this disease. During the month of February this hospital has registered 87 cases of leptospirosis, 2 of which were fatal. [Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Feb 83 PY]

BELGIUM FREES JEWEL TRADE -- Brasilia -- The Central Office of "Contingents and Licenses" of the Belgian Economy Ministry told the Brazilian Consulate in Brussels yesterday that Brazilian precious and semiprecious stones can be freely traded on the Belgian market. [Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Feb 83 p 16 PY]

MADRID PAPER INTERVIEWS PRESIDENT BETANCUR

PM011723 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 21 Feb 83 p 6

[Interview with Colombian President Betancur by A. Navarro in Bogota -- no date given]

[Excerpts] "You do not know the nun? Come, I will introduce her to you. The nun is a personality in this country's political life."

President Belisario Betancur took me to the main entrance of the Narino Palace and showed me a huge painting by Fernando Botero, which represents a tall, enormous nun dressed in impeccable white who is saying her rosary and looks as if she were levitating.

"If you could see her...she comes down from the painting and upbraids me, and talks to be about human rights, and then rises again and carries on saying her rosary. She is fantastic!"

The nun has become the symbol of the defense of human rights, which Betancur has advocated since the very day when he took office, in August 1982.

The first thing that the conservative president did was to decree an unconditional amnesty for the armed rebels, thanks to which several dozen political prisoners left the prisons, and although no guerrilla group as a body has availed itself of the measure, there is a long list of individuals who have become integrated into civilian life and handed over their guns.

The 19 April Movement has confined its activities to symbolic actions since the amnesty entered into force, and it is the oldest guerrilla groups which have staged the latest clashes with the enemy and executions of peasants accused of collaborating with the military.

"Army Without Putschist Tradition"

However, the Colombian president remains optimistic about the amnesty, and refuses to declare a state of emergency as a guarantee of peace: "The amnesty is not a problem which can be worked out with a calculator or a computer to record the armed rebels who are becoming integrated into civilian life. We are confronted with an underlying problem which is termed the subversion of underdevelopment and which cannot be tackled purely as a political or military matter.

The Congress and the government of Colombia decreed the amnesty as a first step "in order to resolve without subversive disturbances the underlying problem, which is that of giving our people economic and social guarantees. This is what we are doing."

The Colombian Army has no tradition of putschism, and its most recent experience -- the dictatorship of General Rojas Pinillas (1953-1957) -- was not profitable for the military class. However, the last government involved the Armed Forces in the administration of justice and decisions concerning civil freedoms through a security law which granted them full powers. The new situation is different, and it is not clear that some sections of the Army are in favor of the democratic opening sought by the current government.

When I asked Betancur whether he will demilitarize the country completely or whether he will be obliged to reinforce some strife-ridden places, he replied that "under the country's current conditions, the military and police presence in the territory of Colombia is a factor of state sovereignty and power, and should not be taken as something hostile to citizens."

The president asserted that "the Armed Forces are maintaining their presence under normal conditions, without harassment of anybody," and added that they are collaborating in community tasks and "protecting the villages and other country areas from common banditry." "The militarization is no problem today," he added, "because even in certain formerly strife-ridden areas, it is being demanded today that the Army should not withdraw, because under the new circumstances experienced by Colombia it offers civil contributions of the utmost creativity."

"Being Satellites of Big Powers"

Another plan of the "surprise president," as Felipe Gonzalez recently called him, has been realized. Colombia has just joined the Nonaligned Movement, and Betancur will be one of the heads of state at the New Delhi conference. "Countries such as Colombia are those which suffer most from being satellites of one of the big powers, among other reasons because this situation makes us self-absorbed which does not allow us to see clearly the broad outline of international policy and its harmful or favorable effects for the lot of our own people."

"The nonaligned group," Betancur added, "is another window on the world in order to look at it with a different perspective and to secure new forms of solidarity. Moreover, it is a way of strengthening our own sovereignty and seeking rapprochements with other countries which, in one way or another, are our equals, or at least similar in the dependence imposed on us by certain characteristics of our domestic production apparatus and the movements of our foreign trade. In short, it is a matter of seeking new ways to promote Colombia in the outside world, and the nonaligned countries are, in principle, an effective channel for achieving this."

During U.S. President Ronald Reagan's first visit to Latin America, the U.S. leader met in Bogota with an uninhibited president. In his speech of welcome and at the personal meeting which the two heads of state held, Betancur told Reagan plainly that an inter-American community of nations in which Cuba is not present is inconceivable.

According to what was learned in Bogota, the State Department suggested some changes in Betancur's speech, which he apparently refused, not without explaining first that he would never venture to criticize a U.S. president. Belisario reminded Reagan of the Malvinas episode, the Central American countries' right to resolve their problems and propose their own alternatives, the need for a negotiated solution in El Salvador, the urgent need to renegotiate the foreign debts of many countries in the area....

The U.S. President canceled the press conference which he had planned with Colombian journalists. The Colombian president believes that following Reagan's visit to Colombia and Latin America, "a process of reappraisal of relations between the United States and Latin America has begun. Despite the short-term interferences which may occur, it is important that President Reagan's administration has realized that something has happened since the unfortunate Malvinas episode, and that the balance of traditional relations has been upset to give way to something new. We will see how long it takes to establish a new balance between U.S. interests and those of the Latin American peoples."

In the meantime, Betancur is continuing to carry out a markedly populist policy of gestures which means that nobody in Colombia can deny that at present the handling of power under Betancur is different, and that it is the first time in many years that honesty has been the government's preferred image.

"Let Me Be Remembered as the Friend of the Poor"

"I want my fellow-countrymen," President Betancur said, "to remember me as a just leader who always cared, and especially in power, about those with the least resources for going through life, and that when I leave the government, the weak, from among whom I emerged, will see me pass by and say: 'There goes Belisario, the friend of the poor.'"

In order to achieve this, the president has a plan for reorganizing the economy, which is stifled by the financial groups and the corruption prevailing at many levels. He is attempting to give all Colombians their own homes, reduce unemployment and end illiteracy, in addition to reviving national industry and investment.

At present, the conservative leader seems to convince all sectors. This 60-year-old lawyer, the son of a working class family of 22 brothers and sisters, has enormous personal charm, which enables him, together with his political skill, to be on good terms with all ideologies.

"I learned a very great deal from the Spanish transition," Belisario Betancur said. "Above all, I learned to see the many aspects of the struggle for democracy. In Latin America we conceal reality behind rhetorical foliage. In the meantime, irregularities occur which consolidate the sentiment and practice of antidemocracy. Since that has gone on for years, we reached the point at which Gabriel Garcia Marquez was able to portray us in a masterly manner, but without major creative problems, because there we were: you only had to anoint us with the magic ingredient to impart literary dignity to an abominable situation. In Spain the lesson is learned differently."

Betancur also believes that "Spain will be a great spokesman for Latin America in the forum of the EEC," and that advantage must be taken of the current historic Spanish circumstances to realize cooperation: "With a Spain led by that great man, King Juan Carlos, and by such a charming personality as Felipe Gonzalez, we should rid bilateral relations of all rhetorical adornment and strengthen them through specific steps."

When you suggest to the president that his role is not easy, bearing in mind the economic situation, the violence and the pressures, and that his job is unenviable, Betancur does not ponder his reply for a minute: "I know that many people would not like to be in my place, but I do. How could I not like this job, when it is the one after which I have striven most? I have prepared myself for many years to win it."

BETANCUR RECEIVES GDR TRADE OFFICIALS 2 MAR

PA022110 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Bogota -- President Betancur was visited today by Wilhelm Bastian, GDR vice minister of foreign trade. Bastian is a member of the joint commission that is reviewing trade relations between the two countries.

The meeting took place in the protocol room of Narino Palace. GDR Ambassador Karl Heinz Moebius; Jorge Cardenas Gutierrez, president of the National Federation of Coffee Growers; and (?Werner Haenold), one of the directors of the GDR Foreign Trade Ministry, were also present.

The GDR officials arrived Saturday in Colombia to participate in the sixth meeting of the mixed Colombian-GDR Trade Commission [Comision Mixta Colombo-Alemana]. The purpose of the meeting is to diversify trade between the two countries and especially to expand the possibilities of marketing Colombian coffee in that European nation.

MINISTER ON MILITARY LINKS TO MAS, PAST COUPS

PA021716 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Bogota -- National Defense Minister Fernando Landazabal Reyes has asked the country's [word indistinct] leaders to have confidence in the Armed Forces as a necessary condition for peace in Colombia.

The official, who is engaged in a heated dispute with Attorney General Carlos Jimenez Gomez, tacitly accepted the possibility that some retired Armed Forces personnel -- that is, who are currently not in active service -- may be involved with the sinister Death to Kidnappers group.

In statements to the newspaper EL TIEMPO, General Landazabal Reyes contended that peace was undermined by the political strife, civil wars and political violence in Colombia and noted that things will change the moment the ruling classes develop confidence in the Armed Forces and vice versa.

Regarding the possibility of a coup d'etat, General Landazabal stressed that this is a false image that originates in atavistic feelings of the last century's political generations, which should no longer exist.

Landazabal added that the Armed Forces have and have had a clear vision of their duties and obligations as well as their responsibility to the state, nation, society and the people, of which they are a part. In ruling out this possibility, the defense minister emphatically said that the military in no way covets power. Far from being the military's ambition to assume power, military coups in Colombia have been a strategy of the political class not to lose it, he said.

VENEZUELA OFFERS OIL STORAGE INSTALLATIONS

PA020356 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Guillermo Angulo Lopez, Venezuelan ambassador to Ecuador, has announced that Venezuela has decided to offer its Aruba oil storage installations so that the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation, CEPE, may use them to store Ecuadorean oil. Angulo said that an agreement has been reached through which Ecuador will be able to store 1 million barrels without cost until the price situation in the international market stabilizes. Last week representatives of the Venezuelan Petrochemical Institute were in Quito to hold talks with Ecuadorean petroleum authorities and an agreement was almost finalized. However, there is no report on whether an agreement was reached on the possibility of Venezuela cooperating in the sale of Ecuador's oil.

Venezuela and Colombia back Ecuador's call for a Latin American joint action plan to face up to the crisis. It has been officially reported that Venezuela favors the free storage of Ecuadorean oil in Venezuelan facilities. Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins has publicly stated his support for the call made by his Ecuadorean counterpart. I find this document very important and timely considering the current situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, President Herrera said. Colombian President Belisario Betancur has said that our America will get back on the road to integration with historic vision, certain that this is the best alternative, as President Hurtado has said.

GOVERNMENT MINISTER TAKING PROPOSAL TO NEW DELHI

PA030221 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Excerpt] At the Nonaligned Summit Conference, Ecuador will propose that the movement resume the path that inspired its creation and reaffirm the sovereignty of its member countries as a whole. Ecuador will also propose that the movement advocate the peaceful solution of problems within a framework of social justice. This proposal will be made by Government and Justice Minister Galo Garcia Feraud, who will leave for New Delhi tonight. Minister Garcia will represent President Oswaldo Hurtado at the meeting of Third World countries.

Minister Garcia said that a basic point of the Ecuadorean proposal will be reaffirmation of the countries' sovereignty as a whole, especially now, considering the current circumstances in the world, when the great confrontation might endanger peace among men.

STUDENTS PROTEST POSSIBLE ECONOMIC MEASURES

PA030313 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Protests and street disturbances continued in several sectors of the city. The incidents, carried out mainly by secondary students, are in their second day and have intensified. Dozens of witnesses reported to this radio station that the incidents are occurring in the northern, central and southern sectors of the city. Students from the Andres Bello National School, the Luciano Andrade Marin National Experimental School, the Eloy Alfaro National School, the Mejia National School, the Miguel de Santiago National School, the (Odilo Aguilar) School, the Montufar National School, the Amazons National Pilot School and others have demonstrated to protest rumors of economic measures which the government may take. Due to the disturbances, many students have been arrested. According to reports from teachers of the Miguel de Santiago National School, nine students were arrested inside the school itself. Furthermore, several telephone calls from people living near the Andres Bello School reported to Ecuador Radio that the police entered and threw many tear gas bombs, causing a great commotion among the school's teachers, students and employees.

NATIONAL ACCORD REJECTS GOVERNMENT DECISION

PY022212 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1329 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 March (NA) -- The decision of the Paraguayan Government to allow the return of all Paraguayan exiles with the exception of writer Augusto Roa Bastos, former Senator Domingo Laino and former Christian Democratic Party [PDC] leader Luis Alfonso Resk, has been rejected by the "National Accord."

This decision was announced last night by Resk, president in exile of the "National Accord," because the government's decision is believed to be an "absurd discrimination" and " a new farce staged by President Alfredo Stroessner's regime."

During a press conference held at the PDC's headquarters, Resk noted that (?Paraguayan exiles) tried vainly to return to Paraguayan in September 1982 and on 6 February 1982.

The PDC leader noted that the "National Accord" is made up of the PDC, the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, the Febrerista Revolutionary Party and the Colorado Popular Movement, a dissident faction in exile of the government party, the Colorado Party.

Resk, and a large group of Paraguayan politicians who were with him at the meeting, said that in addition to rejecting the discriminatory measure against Roa Bastos, Laino and himself, the "National Accord" also repudiates the fact that to be able to enter the country, Paraguayan exiles will have to do so one by one. This is so they can be controlled with the excuse of trying to avoid any disorders.

Resk added that these conditions are not accepted because "Either we return with the full enforcement of our rights, or not at all." He also noted that "Freedom is indivisible, either there is complete freedom or none at all."

BRIEFS

IDB LOANS FOR ELECTRIC SYSTEM -- Two loan contracts for a total of $24 million were signed in Washington with the IDB. These loans are earmarked for the extension of the National Electric Power Administration's [ANDE] electric system to various towns. The loans were signed, on behalf of the Paraguayan Government, by Mario Lopez Escobar; by Antonio Ortiz Mena, head of the IDM; and by Enzo Debernardi, on behalf of ANDE. [Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 11 Feb 83 p 8 PY]

TELEVISION TRANSMITTERS ACQUIRED FROM FRANCE

PY011741 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The head of the National Social Communications System, Miguel Alva Orlandini, has announced that 13 1-kw television transmitters are about to arrive from France fro installation in the capitals of 13 departments. He also confirmed the shipment of 18 100-w transmitters to be installed in provincial capitals. Orlandini further announced that this equipment will be set up in the coastal, the Sierra and the Selva regions, and that they may be used by private television stations making the proper request in order to expand television coverage to the interior of the country.

PUBLIC INVESTMENT CUTS NOT TO AFFECT EMPLOYMENT

PY281802 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Budget cuts will not affect employment nor will they slow down public projects, according to President Belaunde, who said so during his usual Sunday conference. This is what he said:

[Begin Belaunde recording] In the face of the economic crisis and aware that this year's deficit must be reduced from 10 percent of the GDP [Gross Domestic Product] to just 3.8 percent, we must be realistic. Public investments, which last year amounted to approximately 11 percent of the GDP, must be cut down to 8.5 percent. We must cut somewhere. This is what we based our cuts on: In order to reduce our public investments to a certain extent there are capitalization projects which could be reduced by as much as 20 percent and this will be done by delaying payments, something which will be arranged as soon as our mission to the United States comes back. With my experience in the construction industry I frankly believe that it is better to receive 80 percent of the payment on time than have all 100 percent of it up in the air. In view of this, I do not feel that employment will be hurt at all. [end recording]

PDC CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY

PY252351 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Feb 83 p 5

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] demanded yesterday the resignation of Interior Minister Fernando Rincon Bazo "in view of his constant errors and the enforcement of a policy violating human rights and constitutional guarantees." The PDC also demanded that the AP [Popular Action] government substantially change its orthodox liberal economy policy to one oriented toward promoting production sectors. Through its recently appointed president, Carlos Blancas Bustamante, the PDC reasserted its democratic and constructive opposition policy and it condemned the government's economic policy.

The PDC also noted that the crisis is not being overcome but rather that the situation is getting worse and thus seriously undermining the purchasing power of the middle and low income sectors.

Blancas noted that the government's regressive social policy is aimed at stopping or eliminating some social reforms which have benefited certain national sectors such as agrarian reform, the industrial sector, public service enterprises, social property enterprises, etc. He said: "The government's policy does not contribute to the strengthening of democracy but rather to weakening it, thus making the existing social conflicts more acute. This in some instances is reflected through violence."

Blancas explained that violence is the result of unjust structures of Peruvian society and that political violence is an erroneous and negative answer to this situation. The PDC leader said: Therefore, it is not enough to struggle against the effects, but also against the causes."

"This is why we think that the government should not merely minimize the Shinning Path issue to a simple military repression. It should also promote social changes that will lead to development and social justice, and ultimately to the elimination of the causes of violence." Blancas noted that the PDC "condemns the terrorist actions perpetrated by Shinning Path since they are inhuman and irrational. But it also demands that the regime changes its economic and social policy in order to achieve an overall solution to the violence problem and have the will to hold a dialogue so as to achieve peace in the country."

Blancas also announced that the PDC will participate in this years' municipal elections and in the general elections of 1985. Moreover, he expressed his solidarity with the Peruvian Catholic Church, "which is being unjustly criticized by Belaunde for its apostolic work at the service of the most oppressed sectors of the country."

He also expressed his concern over the fact that the government has called an extraordinary legislative session after a notable delay and because this session has been called for merely 3 days, something which shows the lack of seriousness of the debate.

REPORTAGE ON GOVERNMENT DRIVE AGAINST TERRORISTS

Havana on Death of 62

PA281714 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] The Ayacucho political and military command has reported that from 22-24 February, 62 members of armed groups were killed in clashes with the army and the police in that Peruvian department. The newspaper EL OBSERVADOR, which is published in Lima, stated that in these actions the government forces used helicopters to bomb alleged guerrilla bases.

On Saturday, local newsmen and correspondents from Lima paid homage in Ayacucho to their eight colleagues who were killed on 26 January in the town of (Uchuracay). During the ceremonies, it was deplored that so far not a single person has been arrested for the massacre, which was investigated by a government-appointed commission.

It was also learned that in the city of Ica a dynamite attack was carried out at the site where Deputy Alan Garcia, secretary general of the APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] party, was supposed to speak, and that two banks in Arequipa were also dynamited.

Comrade Carla Whereabouts Unknown

PY262008 Lima Radio Union in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] The whereabouts of Carlotta Tello remain a mystery. While some reports indicate that she is dead, others assert that she was captured in Huancavelica. The authorities in Lima and Ayacucho have not confirmed either her death or arrest. In addition to these reports, rumors began to circulate yesterday in Ayacucho regarding the fate [words indistinct] that she had committed suicide, but neither could this rumor be confirmed due to the very deep secrecy that is being maintained by provincial and military authorities.

HAVANA INTERVIEWS DEMOCRATIC CONVERGENCE LEADER

PA020342 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Statements by Juan Raul Ferreira, president of the Democratic Covergence in Uruguay in interview with the Radio Havana special correspondent in Managua -- no date given]

[Text] Ferreira speaks first of the example given by the political prisoners who are in Uruguayan jails: [Begin recording] I believe that, for example, in the case you cite of General Liber Seregni these prisoners symbolize, these prisoners represent the emblem, the symbol of an entire country, of citizens, compatriots and comrades who are imprisoned for political reasons. The Uruguayan Government has said -- and the U.S. Government has pointed out proudly as a great advancement in respect for human rights -- that in Uruguay there are only 980 political prisoners. We believe that the number is much greater, because unfortunately we have noted that many comrades who are on our lists do not appear on the Uruguayan regime's official lists. Nevertheless, I do not understand what a government that, according to its own figures has the greatest number of political prisoners in Latin America, should be proud of. I do not understand what kind of improvement in what type of human rights the U.S. Administration can show the international public when, I repeat, according to its own figures the Uruguayan Government has almost 1,000 citizens in jail for political reasons. We believe that this has to have a political solution. We will continue to fight with the same tenacity and fervor in an attempt to wrest at least one political prisoner away from the Uruguayan dictatorship. We will consider each prisoner that we wrest away a triumph for the people. However, we also feel that the struggle will not end as long as even one comrade remains imprisoned. We feel that the solution is going to be a political and overall solution, through the mechanisms of amnesty and national reconciliation. Evidently, the question you raised was how can this happen in a country that was once known as the Sweden of America. We are obliged to ask ourselves what happened, what made America's Sweden become what it is today. Therefore, I think that it is the duty of the Uruguayan political forces and all who are participating in the democratic reconstruction process to see to it that the errors of the democratic process which ended in 1973 are not repeated. I want to take advantage of the moment to reiterate that we want to go toward the democratic institutionalization of the 1980's. We do not want to return to the type of democratic system that the country had in 1973 because that system eventually showed its impotence and defenselessness in the face of fascist aggression. We want a solid democratic system, one with broad popular support. I think that all this has to serve all Uruguayans as a motive for reflection on what type of solutions in the economic, social and political spheres have to be applied to our country's distressing problems, so that never again in history will we have another dark and black hour like the one the republic is facing right now. [end recording]

On the plan of government that the Democratic Convergence has for Uruguay's future, Juan Raul Ferreira said: [Begin recording] I believe that our timetable, in matters pertaining to our timing and calendar, requires immediate democratic restoration. It should have been done yesterday. We have no reason to be patient and tolerant in matters of dates and time because we feel that the regime has already lost its guise of legitimacy, if it ever had one. As for the proposal of our timetable, I will tell you something that might be repetitious. We believe in the installation of a civil government elected democratically with the participation of all the political forces, without exclusions, without any kind of ban against citizens or parties. Then, right after a climate of minimal liberties has been reestablished, we plan to get down to the task of making constitutional reforms that will allow us to create a flexible and modern democratic system that will give the incumbent government at the time the possibility of facing up to the grave problems that our country is experiencing. [end recording]

COSTA RICA

SPEECH BY POPE JOHN PAUL II UPON ARRIVAL

PA030006 Panama City Domestic Television Service in Spanish 2157 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Speech by Pope John Paul II upon his arrival at Juan Santamaria Airport in San Jose, Costa Rica -- live]

[Text] Mr President, beloved brothers of the Episcopate, dear brothers: Christ be praised.

I thank God for bringing me again to the American continent, after previous visits to the Dominican Republic and Mexico, to the United States, Brazil and Argentina; visits of which I have such vivid memories. On this occasion, my footsteps as an apostolic pilgrim are taken in this geographic area of Central America. I have thought so much about it for a long time and it has been often on my mind and among my worries.

In the first phase, I am welcomed by beloved Costa Rica, whose warm hospitality I began to experience from the moment of my arrival at Juan Santamaria Airport in the nation's capital. This causes a feeling of deep gratitude to arise in my soul. Thank you, Mr President, for your kind welcome, for the noble words you just spoke, for your invitation, together with the Costa Rican Episcopate, to visit the country and for what you have done to make my visit possible.

I wish to extend my greetings to the members of the government, to the authorities and to those who have given their enthusiastic cooperation. I also extend my cordial and fraternal greetings to my brother bishops of the Central American Episcopal Conference, CEDAC; first, to its president Msgr Roman Arrieta, pastor of the Archdiocesis of San Jose. I greet those bishops who have come to welcome me and with whom I will meet this afternoon. In my greetings I also include all the priests, clergy, nuns, seminarians and laity committed to the ecclesiastic work as well as to all the men, women, children, youth, adults and elderly of Costa Rica, a peace-loving land with a rich history. [applause]

But my eyes do not stop only at this nation. This apostolic visit has a unitarian character in its global development. That is why from the first moment I touched Central American soil, my thoughts and memory are full of affection for all the people and countries I will visit in the next days, all those in Nicaragua, Panama, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize and Haiti. I have taken this trip with all in mind, moved by the obligation I feel I have to encourage the struggle for faith among peoples who believe in Jesus Christ, so that faith may enlighten and inspire individual and community life more efficiently.

I also aspire to have other [words indistinct] pastoral stability of the successor of Peter among us. As a matter of fact, my spirit has felt the urgency of the desperate cry coming from these countries calling for peace, calling for the end of war and violence; a voice imploring reconciliation; a voice against divisions and hatreds, hoping for a permanent justice which to date has not occurred. My spirit has felt the urgency of the desperate cry of these countries that wish to have more dignity, without giving up their Christian religious beliefs.

With my visit I wish to let you know of my concern for your desperate cry; my concern for your tears over the death of the child, the grief of the elderly, the mother that loses her children, the long line of orphans, the thousands of refugees; my concern for exiles and displaced persons seeking for a home, for the poor without hope and without jobs.

It is the grief of the people I am here to share. I am here in an attempt to understand that grief from a closer range, to issue a word of encouragement and hope, based on necessary change of attitude.

This change is possible if we accept the word of Christ who asks us to respect and love every man as our brother; if we give up selfish practices; if we learn to be more united; if forms of social justice advocated by the church are implemented; if those responsible for guiding the people become more aware of the meaning of justice in the distribution of rights and duties among the various sectors of society; and if each country could face its problems in a climate of sincere dialogue, without foreign intervention.

These countries have the capacity to gradually reach the objectives of more dignity for their children. To do so, a more determined will and the cooperation of all sectors of the population will be necessary, but without resorting to violence and systems of collectivism which can result no less in oppression of man's dignity than a strictly economist capitalism.

Man's guide is the humanism advocated by the church in its social teaching and which can resolve unfortunate situations which are awaiting suitable changes.

My word is of peace, concord and hope. I am here to talk to you with love for all and to exhort you to be brotherly and to understand that you are all children of the same father. It is this reality that makes me appeal to your conscience so that with an appropriate answer these countries can have the hope they need so much.

As of this moment, I offer my encouragement for those making the effort, whether in public office, in the church or society. In this respect, I also express my encouragement to the distinguished members of the diplomatic corps with whom I will talk in coming days, as well as to those in charge of the news media, that can do so much with what they do.

I pray God to make these objectives possible. I ask the mother of Christ, who is also our mother, for her maternal help to support us in these days. Trusting in the protection of heaven, I sincerely bless the Costa Rican people and those of the other countries I will visit during my apostolic tour. Thank you, Mr President. [applause]

EL SALVADOR

PEASANT UNION ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON RALLY

PA022335 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2100 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Communal Union, UCS, on 2 March -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Salvadoran Communal Union, UCS -- with legal status granted by the Interior Ministry in Decree No 1428, dated 24 September 1971 and published in Official Gazette No 191, volume 223, dated 20 October 1971 -- is part of the Democratic Popular Unity, UPD, which includes many of the country's democratic organizations. Following UCS standards, on 1 March the party members came to the headquarters of the Constituent Assembly [break in transmission] most suffering (?sector) of the nation to request of the representatives elected by the people and for the people the extension of decree No 207 which directly benefits the peasants who till the soil, because the assembly members should realize that this is a just measure.

We have been surprised by the attitude of the leadership which represents the people. That leadership closed its doors and announced that the plenary session has been postponed for a later date. Nevertheless, that attitude will not stop us because we are again calling upon our members and the people to close ranks at the Constituent Assembly on 3 March 1983.

For the dignity of the peasants and workers, [signed] the Salvadoran Communal Union, UCS.

GOVERNMENT TERMS UN REPORT 'UNACCEPTABLE'

PA021927 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1707 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Geneva, 1 Mar (EFE) -- The Salvadoran Government rejected here as "unacceptable" and "partial" the report by Spanish professor Jose Antonio Pastor Ridruejo, special UN representative.

Jose Luis Covo Castelar, Salvadoran representative to the UN Commission on Human Rights, particularly criticized the recommendation that the government initiate a peace dialgoue with the political opposition and the guerrilla forces. "Those recommendations which fall within the exclusive purviw of the Salvadoran people and which, furthermore, are not viable in the current situation of the country, which is determined to have peace, are not acceptable," he stated.

The Salvadoran delegate explained that the Salvadoran Government's proposal demands that the "groups opposed to the current democratic process cease their radical actions and strategy of violence and destruction."

This was specifically contained in the plan presented last week by Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana in which "the armed solution supported from abroad, which is contrary to our people's aspirations, is flatly rejected."

"A peace commission," the delegate added, "will draft an amnesty law and will promote the reincorporation of the armed opposition groups into the democratization process."

Regarding the report submitted yesterday by the UN representative, the Salvadoran delegate noted that it still reflects "the interventionist attitude that is heightening the civil conflict and even encouraging the guerrillas."

However, he noted that the last report recognizes the Salvadoran Government's great concern for respect of human rights and some of the many measures adopted, which have permitted a notable drop in the acts of bloodshed. He indicated that some of the report's recommendations are "intrinsically valid, correct and in keeping with the government's goals." He concluded by affirming "our relentless will to carry out renewed efforts toward the promotion and defense of human rights and our faith in the UN system, despite all the setbacks and obstacles."

SPECIAL UN REPRESENTATIVE EXPLAINS POSITION

PA022300 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1718 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Geneva, 1 Mar (EFE) -- The special UN representative for the Salvadoran problem said here today, "I have tried to be as impartial as possible, which has been recognized by many delegations." Spanish Professor Jose Antonio Pastor Ridruejo made this statement to "EFE" in explanation of position and in response to the rejection of his report announced today by the Salvadoran Government's delegate to the UN Human Rights Commission.

In the conclusions of his latest study, the jurist noted that "serious, massive and persistant human rights violations have continued in El Salvador due to the serious civil conflict."

He also confirmed the Salvadoran authorities' concern over the situation, despite the fact that the Geneva Convention continues to be disregarded as safety of the civilian population is not respected during the armed actions.

In the final recommendations, the document points out that "the return of civilian peace is imperative for the respect of civilian and political rights."

It adds that the Salvadoran Government should consider the possibility of a dialogue "with all political forces." The dialogue should be aimed at "ending armed confrontation."

The latest recommendations ask the Salvadoran Government to derogate the special law of December 1980. The effective control of all members and units of the armed forces and security corps is also suggested.

Further, the document recommends prompt punishment of those responsible of crimes, including ranking officials and chiefs, officers and members of the armed forces and security corps.

Finally the document calls for the organization of massive campaigns for respect of human rights and the strengthening of social reforms, including agrarian reform.

To vote on the report, the UN commission "received a draft resolution submitted by Mexico and France, demanding "a political negotiated solution" to the Salvadoran conflict.

The text demands the application of the Geneva Convention to the armed conflict of El Salvador. It calls on all states "to abstain from interfering in the Salvadoran political situation and to suspend all arms supply and any other military support."

ARMY TERMS GUAZAPA 10 OPERATION 'SUCCESSFUL'

PA021307 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 1 Mar 83 pp 1, 31

[Excerpts] In faithful compliance with its duties as the institution charged with defending liberty and democracy, the armed forces continues the second phase of the Guazapa 10 Operation, which has been successful. This was reported by military sources, who added that "thus far, we have managed to have terrorists of the FMLN-Revolutionary Democratic Front abandon areas they had seized through terrorist acts."

Military contingents have been searching the whole area near Guazapa volcano in the past few days to rid the area of guerrilla redoubts, the sources added.

It was also reported that 10,000 soldiers are participating in operations in Cabanas Department. Troops, including members of the Atlacatl Battalion, were sent in planes and helicopters to the area of Cinquera and Ilobasco, and also to the two hydroelectric dams, the report indicate.

The sources added that army forces occupied their positions on Sunday, and that they have the support of A-37 Dragonfly planes, which machinegunned extremist positions. The redoubts were also attacked with artillery and mortars. The operation is to protect the two dams and Cinquera, since residents of Cinquera have received threats that this town will be attacked by terrorists.

UNGO ACCUSES U.S., JUNTA OF 'WILL FOR WAR'

FL010020 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2209 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Guillermo Ungo, leader of the Salvadoran opposition, today accused the U.S. Government and the Salvadoran military junta of responding to a will for peace with a will for war.

Announcing a cease-fire during Pope John Paul II's visit to Central America at a press conference here today, Ungo said that this action is a gesture of good will aimed at creating a favorable condition for the pope's visit.

He asserted that the FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front are ready to seek solutions to the crisis suffered by El Salvador. However, he accused the Reagan administration and the Salvadoran Government of maintaining a will for war.

Elsewhere, Ungo expressed confidence that Pope John Paul II will ratify his public opinions on the Salvadoran conflict which last August he had described as caused by the situation of social injustice prevailing in El Salvador as well as his opinion on the need for a negotiated settlement.

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS ON FMLN ACTIVITIES

Accuses Regime on Bombing

PA020106 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Judas Iscariot Garcia continues sowing death in El Salvador. General Garcia continues sending A-37 planes from the Ilopango air base to bomb Salvadoran peasant areas.

Right now we are receiving a report from Guazapa hill charging that on Friday, 25 February, the dictatorship indiscriminately bombed the villages of Caserio Tenango and Guadalup, in Cuscatlan Department causing a big massacre among the civilian population.

According to initial reports, there have been between 40 and 50 victims as a result of the indiscriminate bombing against these two towns. Most of the victims were children.

We will expand on this report on this horrible massacre committed from A-37 planes that the genocidal high command sends from Ilorango airport, the airport where His Holiness John Paul II will arrive. This is the airport that the cowardly enemy is using to send its planes of death to dump its bombs on Salvadoran rural areas.

Action in Lolotiquillo

PA020130 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] On 27 February, FMLN forces attacked and seized the enemy positions in the town of Lolotiquillo, 3 km from San Francisco Gotera.

The attack began at 0530 when the forces of Companero (Monico) seized the first positions and weapons from the enemy. The FMLN forces then attacked and seized the commander's headquarters. Several rifles and ammunition were recovered. The enemy forces fled in disarray only to fall in an annihilation encirclement under the command of Companero (Blan). Sgt (Luciano Laguan), commander of the Lolotiquillo enemy forces, was captured in this operation.

As a result of this action, which lasted only 15 minutes, our forces recovered 15 G-3 rifles, 2 M-1 carbines, 7,300 rounds of ammunition and other war materiel. Our forces captured four enemy soldiers, including the previously mentioned sergeant.

The enemy had six dead and two wounded. The wounded were left in the care of the civilian population.

Our forces remained in Lolotiquillo until 0800. While in the town, our forces carried out political activities with the population.

The participation of Companeros (Rosas), who was responsible for the operation equipment, was outstanding. The operation was directed by Commander (Ramon). Radio Venceremos received this information from commander (Cano Guevara).

Broadcast Times, Frequencies

PA021405 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Radio Venceremos transmits on two shortwave frequencies near 7 mgz at 0615, 1230, 1800, and 2030. On FM, we transmit for the San Salvador area every day at 2030.

HAVANA ON CURRENT SITUATION, U.S. 'INTERVENTION'

PA020327 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpt] On Monday, bus service between the Salvadoran capital and the northern and eastern departments of the country was practically paralyzed, due to the owners' fear that the vehicles would be attacked by guerrilla forces operating in the area.

The FMLN claims that the United States supports the Honduran and Guatemalan Governments, with the intention of having them intervene in El Salvador.

In an extensive analysis of the Revolutionary Heroes of January campaign, the FMLN points out that Washington provided Honduras with landing strips and increased its military and economic aid to allow Honduras to intervene even more in El Salvador.

In Guatemala, it adds, the United States has trained special units during the last few months for intervention in Salvadoran territory.

Further Havana Report

PA022016 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Some 100 soldiers of the special Atlacatl Battalion were killed in battles fought against guerrilla detachments in areas of Cabanas Department, El Salvador. The casualties include one subsergeant and two corporals.

Most of eastern El Salvador remains without power due to FMLN sabotage. Heavy fighting is currently taking place in Cuscatlan, near Guazapa volcano. For several days now, the army has been unsuccessfully trying to dislodge the guerrillas from their positions there.

Meanwhile, the army reportedly continues recruting young people by force throughout the country. The most recent recruitment efforts are being handled by Salvadoran officials in Chalatenango Department.

At a high-ranking U.S. Government official in Washington has said that the White House is planning to increase the number of U.S. military advisers in El Salvador, where the army is rapidly deteriorating.

The government representative, who chose not to disclose his name, said that Washington is also planning to give an additional $60 million to the Salvadoran regime for the purchase of new weapons.

For his part, Michael Barnes, Democratic Congressman for Maryland and Chairman of the House Inter-American Affairs Subcommittee, has said that deals and corruption characterize the Salvadoran Army. Under current circumstances, he went on, the regime's troops are incapable of stopping the guerrillas and winning the war.

From another quarter, the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission has charged that soldiers of the special Jaguar battalion killed 18 peasants near the city of Sonsonate, capital of Sonsonate Department, in El Salvador. The commission added that another 56 townspeople have been missing since that repressive body of the dictatorship staged a counterinsurgency operation in the villages of Agua Santa, Las Hojas, (La Rampla) and (Rio Guayaba).

According to other dispatches, the UN Human Rights Commission has charged that the Salvadoran police authorities remain completely passive in the face of the human rights violations there. In a report on the situation in El Salvador, the commission stresses that many Salvadoran political prisoners have been in jail for years, without knowing the reason for their imprisonment, and that from January to June 1982, 244 persons disappeared there.

GUATEMALA

OFFICIAL CITES ARRANGEMENTS FOR POPE'S ARRIVAL

PA021703 Guatemela City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The government minister said this afternoon during a news conference at the National Palace that traffic will be paralyzed throughout Guatemala City at the time of the pope's arrival and that it will resume hours later as circumstances permit. It was also reported that no plane will fly within our airspace when the pope arrives, and that civil aeronautics will be ready to enforce this measure.

Only distinguished figures will be able to see the pope from the second floor of the air terminal when he arrives. These include members of the Order of Colon and other specific and qualified orders, persons with special decorations, members of the diplomatic and consular corps and their distinguished wives.

The national media will be allowed to cover the pope's passage from the cathedral to the National Palace. However, when the pope is received by President Rios Montt, only a cameraman from the Secretariat of Public Relations of the Presidency and newsmen who are specifically accredited and admitted may cover the event.

The government minister said that the pope will not hold a news conference. When questioned by the media, he said there is no threat of an attack on the pope and added that the government's security forces are sufficient to safeguard the pope's life and order throughout the nation.

CASTILLO ARRIOLA, MEXICO'S SEPULVEDA HOLD TALKS

PA020413 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The foreign ministers of Guatemala and Mexico, Eduardo Castillo Arriola and Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, have agreed in Cartagena, Colombia, to seek joint solutions to the problem of Guatemalan refugees living in the Mexican border. The two ministers attended a meeting of Latin American foreign ministers and availed themselves of the opportunity to discuss the refugee problem.

Upon his return to Guatemala, Castillo Arriola said today that his Mexican counterpart has offered his cooperation in solving the problem. [Begin recording in progress]... Mexican foreign secretary naturally awaits for the UN High Commission for Refugees, UNHCR, to send us their terms for this mechanism and then -- without any political undertones -- we will reach an understanding. This is merely a humanitarian gesture, because it implies a voluntary return of our people. With the Guatemalan and Mexican Governments as well as the UNHCR guaranteeing their relocation and voluntary return.

Naturally, this will not immediately come into effect. Even though the Guatemalan Government and I personally deplore this situation, because we are nearing the rainy season and the refugees' situation would undoubtedly become even more difficult. [end recording]

CONVICTED TERRORISTS REPORTEDLY EXECUTED 3 MARCH

PA031352 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1319 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- A Honduran and five Guatemalans who had been sentenced to death by a special Guatemalan court were executed at dawn today at this capital's general cemetery, fire department sources told ACAN-EFE.

Those executed -- Honduran Marco Antonio Gonzalez and Guatemalans Walter Vinicio, Sergio Roberto Marroquin Gonzalez, Hector Morales Lopez, Pedro Raxon and Carlos Suyubuj -- were found guilty of involvement in terrorist acts and kidnappings by Guatemalan authorities.

Stiff security measures were in effect at the cemetery since last night and absolutely no one was allowed in it.

According to the sources, the execution squad carried out the sentence at 0153 (1113 GMT) and then gave the coup de grace to one of them.

The policemen on guard at the cemetery declined to confirm the execution but it was confirmed by the fire department. The source told ACAN-EFE that the authorities called the firemen a few minutes before the execution and that the men had already been executed when they arrived at the cemetery. They were buried in this capital's general cemetery.

HONDURAS

HEALTH SERVICES ALERT DECREED FOR POPE'S VISIT

PA021849 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1455 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 2 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Government today decreed a state of health services alert for 72 hrs, starting at 0600 (1200 GMT) Monday, on the occasion of the arrival of Pope John Paul II.

The alert includes all the Health Ministry's health care establishments, the Honduran Social Security Institute and private clinics in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, a city in northern Honduras.

The executive branch decree specifies that "all technical and administrative personnel will report to their job sites for special duties in view of the emergency."

"The state health establishments will offer their services free to anyone requiring them, giving priority to emergencies," the document adds.

It also indicates that a health committee has been named. It is headed by a government representative, and will prepare and coordinate a plan to meet any situation caused by the event.

ITINERARY, ROUTE FOR POPE'S VISIT ANNOUNCED

PA021527 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Mar 83 p 5

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- His Holiness John Paul II will be invited to lunch at the government house during his visit to President Roberto Suazo Cordova on Tuesday, it was announced yesterday.

The pope will arrive at approximately 0900 at Toncontin airport from Guatemala. He will be received by President Suazo Cordova, his cabinet, church authorities, high-ranking army officials, the diplomatic corps, deputies, magistrates and residents of the capital.

He will then go to the Suyapa Basilica in the "popemobile," traveling along a part of European Economic Community Boulevard and then turning on to Armed Forces Boulevard, where he will take the Danli exit to get to Suyapa by way of the connecting road in Kennedy neighborhood.

At approximately 1100, after greeting invalids and the ill inside the Basilica, John Paul II will offer a field mass in conjunction with the Episcopal Conference and many priests.

He will then go to the government house, where he will meet with President Suazo Cordova, and will go immediately afterward to the dining room for lunch.

After completing his engagements in Tegucigalpa, his holiness will go to San Pedro Sula, between 1800 and 1900, to meet with the celebrators of the word of God at Ramon Villeda Morales airport. Afterward, he will return to Guatemala, and will leave the next day for Belize and Haiti.

SUAZO CORDOVA SMOOTHS OUT PARTY DIFFERENCES

PA021859 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Report by Trino Murillo]

[Excerpt] The president of the republic, Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova, yesterday offered presidential designate Marcelino Ponce Martinez a clean slate during a private interview at the Presidential Palace.

Sources close to the Liberal leadership told Radio America that Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova, as top Liberal leader, is trying to smooth out his party's crisis through an understanding between the groups in conflict. Ponce Martinez yesterday said that the president had finally decided to reach understanding with the presidential designates regarding the party's internal difficulties, which have resulted in a crisis in the National Congress.

During a meeting in Tegucigalpa, the three presidential designates agreed to dialogue without prior conditions with Dr Suazo Cordova and, instead, to seek an understanding that will benefit the party, the government and the president. They agreed to start with a clean slate despite the prevailing leadership ambitions within the party, which jeopardize the good intentions of the conflicting parties, Ponce Martinez said.

Meanwhile, national party leaders feel that nothing else can be done in the National Congress; that, just as predicted, Dr Suazo Cordova, responding to the party bloc's recommendations, succeeded in upholding the party's discipline.

The four deputies who were in conflict have told the Liberal bloc that they will only maintain a position to defend the national Constitution, without entering into dealings with sectors opposed to the Honduran Liberal Party's position.

Dr Suazo Cordova will assign specific functions to the three presidential designates in their respective jurisdictions, giving them ample powers as main collaborators of the chief of state.

Elsewhere, according to reports from Liberal circles, Marcelino Ponce Martinez, potential candidate for the chairmanship of the Executive Central Committee, could reach understanding with the other candidate, Ascona del Hoyo, apparently even before the convention takes place, to prevent worsening the Liberal Party's internal problems. Dr Suazo Cordova reportedly advised the two candidates to stay away from the ranks' decision and thus prevent any move to impose the nomination of Jose Azcona. [end relay]

JOURNALISTS RESPOND TO ALVAREZ MARTINEZ REMARKS

PA021645 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Mar 83 p 5

[Communique issued by the Honduran Newsmen's Association in Tegucigalpa on 25 February 1983]

[Text] The Honduran Newsmen's Association [CPH], in view of statements made recently in San Pedro Sula by Brig Gen Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, chief of the Armed Forces, feels obliged to express the following sentiments:

1. It regrets that the concern of reporters, translated into questions that were perhaps inopportune, led to charges against newsmen in general. We consider these charges very serious, particularly because they were made by the armed institution's highest officer.

2. Alvarez Martinez claims that, to a certain extent, the press "in general has become mercenary," and that some newsmen have distorted the mission they are called upon to fulfill in society. For this reason, the CPH requests that the chief of the Armed Forces supply the names and the corresponding evidence regarding those colleagues who in his opinion are trafficking with the profession. This will allow us to bring them before our association's honor court to determine where responsibility lies in accordance with our charter and the journalistic code of ethics.

3. When the chief of the Armed Forces alludes to newspapers and radio stations that make room in their columns and programs for the opinion of persons or sectors who do not believe in our political system, the CPH would like to believe that this is not evidence of an interest in ending the ideological pluralism provided for in our Constitution, because the free expression of ideas and freedom of thought are indispensable to preserving and strengthening any democracy.

4. Defense of democracy is not the exclusive privilege of anyone in particular; it is the duty of all Hondurans, and we journalists have a primary role to play in this, as long as we are allowed to function with absolute freedom and independence.

5. Gen Gustavo Alvarez has reaffirmed these principles on other occasions, publicly stating the following concepts: "Freedom is the natural faculty of each person to act in a particular manner and to be responsible for his actions; freedom of oral and written speech is an indispensable principle of democracy that permits the expression of all ideas with no limitations other than those required for public order. So necessary is freedom for the development of mankind and of society that we could well say that if the natural expression of ideas of a human group is suppressed, that group will have ceased to enjoy freedom and will have sunk into the gloom of oppression and slavery."

6. The CPH accepts its responsibility as the guiding organization of the professional practice of journalism in this country. However, it does not accept interference from outside persons or groups in the establishment of standards for making decisions about our basic activities.

NICARAGUA

MINISTRY REPORTS AIR VIOLATIONS FROM HONDURAS

PA021357 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Communique No 7 released by the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry's Public and Foreign Relations Section in Managua on 1 March -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry announces:

1. Between 17 and 28 February 1983, the Sandinist Peoples Army [EPS] engaged in armed clashes in various parts of the country's northern border area with counterrevolutionary Somozist forces, which during this time stepped up their incursions from Honduran territory.

2. During this period, nine air violations were staged against our territory from Honduras in this area.

3. During this period, armed clashes occurred in our country's northern and border areas at the following sites: (La Luz de los Angeles), Susucayan, el Varillal, (Cano de Wanblan), (Valle San Luis), (Cano de las Canas), (El Caserio), (Comarca El Mamey), (Hacienda La Grecia), west of San Fernando, (Santa Elena Egurra), (El Quite) and Cerro El [name indistinct]. All these sites are in the northern border area of Nueva Segovia and Jinotega Departments. Clashes also occurred yesterday in (San Jose de las Lunas), north of Matagalpa Department.

4. While confronting the armed activities of the Somozist counterrevolution, which has its sanctuary in Honduras, Sandinist Youth Movement members offered their lives, fighting bravely and in exemplary fashion. They were members of the 30-62 reserve battalion.

5. During this period, the EPS troops inflicted 36 casualties upon the Somozist enemy and captured the following: 2 RPG-7 grenade alunchers; 9 rounds of ammunition for RPG-7's; 11 automatic rifles; M-79 grenade launchers with 213 rounds of ammunition; 60 grenades for 60-mm mortars; 21,000 rounds of ammunition for AKA, [word indistinct] and FAL rifles; handgrenades; 41 olive green campaigncoats [capotes de campana], 8 nylon knapsacks with provisions and other war materiel.

6. The EPS general command reaffirms with emphatic conviction that the example of bravery and sacrifice set by the young Sandinist militants who gave their valuable lives will further strengthen the combative and revolutionary spirit of our EPS and our entire people.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ANSWERS PAZ BARNICA NOTE

PA030211 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 24 Feb 83 pp 1, 14

[Text] We have received a press release from the Foreign Affairs Ministry that reads as follows:

On 23 February 1983 Acting Foreign Affairs Minister Nora Astorga answered a note dated 18 February from Honduran Foreign Affairs Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica to Foreign Affairs Minister Miguel d'Escoto.

In his note, the Honduran foreign affairs secretary asks Foreign Minister d'Escoto to set the date and a place for them to meet and visit the places in Honduras where counterrevolutionary camps are said to be located.

The response from Acting Foreign Minister Astorga indicates that Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica knows perfectly well that Foreign Minister d'Escoto has been out of Nicaragua since 11 February on official visits to the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen; that he will go from there to India to participate in the seventh meeting of the Nonaligned Movement and that he will then accompany the government junta coordinator on his official visits to several countries.

Companera Astorga stresses in the Nicaraguan response that the proposal from the Honduran Government adheres to the spirit of the meeting which the Honduran and Nicaraguan chiefs of state held in Guasaule. At that meeting it was agreed to lay the groundwork for a solution to the differences between Honduras and Nicaragua, particularly the border problems, for which purpose it was agreed that the chiefs of the Nicaraguan and Honduran Armed Forces would meet.

The Nicaraguan note asks Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica to help arrange a meeting between the chiefs of the Honduran and Nicaraguan Armed Forces, who would not only carry out an inspection but would also try to implement measures to resolve the situation at the border.

Secretary Paz Barnica is also informed that as a result of the criminal actions of the Somozist Guardsmen from Honduras, 30 people have been wounded, 15 killed and 11 kidnapped from among the members of our EPS [Sandinist People's Army], MINT [not further identified], TGF [Border Guard Troops] and civilians. The Honduran foreign secretary is also informed that 47 counterrevolutionaries have been killed in 27 raids from 20 January through 17 February alone.

He is also reminded that protests have been filed with the U.S. secretary of state on all of these matters because, due to its murderous and aggressive policy, the North American administration is responsible for the sorrow and death in fraternal countries such as Honduras and Nicaragua.

it is expected that the Honduran foreign secretary will take the Nicaraguan proposal into consideration and that dates will be set for the meetings between the two countries' Armed Forces chiefs.

HAVANA REPORTS MEDIA COVERAGE OF POPE'S VISIT

PA022121 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Nicaraguan news media have devoted a great deal of space to the visit that Pope John Paul II will make to the Central American country on Friday. The media have emphasized the great welcome that the Nicaraguan people are preparing for the sovereign pontiff of the Catholic Church.

The newspapers BARRICADA and EL NUEVO DIARIO carry a full-page picture of John Paul II and carry on the two middle pages a plan for transportation to the mass that the pope will celebrate on Friday afternoon at 19 July Plaza in Managua.

EL NUEVO DIARIO reproduces statements by Brazilian bishop Monsignor (Antonio Fragosi), who hopes that the pope will listen to be aspirations of the Nicaraguan people and of many committed Christians, who only want to carry out a national plan without exploitation and with full participation of the people.

Christian organizations of Central America and Haiti have said that Pope John Paul II should respond to the aspirations of the Central American and Caribbean peoples who are subject to repression and death. They urged him to keep his visit from being manipulated by the United States and its puppets in the region.

Monsignor Sergio Mendez Arceo, apostolic administrator of the Mexican city of Cuernavaca, said that the hope that is most in line with our history is that the pope will point an accusing finger at U.S. intervention in Central America.

In Rome, the sovereign pontiff of the Catholic Church described the visit that he will make to Central America beginning tomorrow as particularly important and fraught with responsibility.

COLOMBIAN RADIO INTERVIEWS DANIEL ORTEGA

PA280300 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Interview with Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, by (Monica Rodriguez) from CARACOL and (Daysi Canon) from (Tevehoy); date, place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] There has been talk of the pope's visit as a political function, not only in Central America but everywhere he has visited. [Words indistinct] the pope's mediation could help resolve Central America's problems?

[Answer] I think that in these moments [words indistinct].

[Question] (?Do you believe it would be political mediation) or simply advice to the government junta?

[Answer] Well, I believe that the main problem in the region at this time is El Salvador. This (?possibly) demands a sum of wills at the international level. Latin American and European rulers, in this case the pope, have expressed [words indistinct] for peace, will logically be strengthening this climate that is necessary to find an answer to the problems. [Words indistinct]

[Question] [Words indistinct]

[Answer] Well, these problems are known [words indistinct] critical situation in the region, specifically in El Salvador [words indistinct]. I believe that the situation is very critical [words indistinct] interventionist action that therefore must be stopped, the aggressions of the United States in El Salvador. Logically we in Nicaragua will take advantage of this opportunity to expand the information we have on the continual attacks that the Nicaraguan revolution is suffering. (?This also involves the U.S. will) to arm the Somozist guards in Honduran territory, involving the Honduran Army and Government in these criminal actions against the Nicaraguan people. I believe that this will permit [word indistinct] a clearer vision (?of what is happening) in the region.

[Question] Commander, as chief of the Junta of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, do you believe there is a peace formula that can be implemented that includes Nicaragua in order to achieve tranquillity in Central America?

[Answer] All this is determined by the attitude of U.S. policy. We have said on a previous occasion that the great destabilizing factor in Central America is the policy of the present U.S. administration, which is obstinately pursuing a policy of aggression, of trying to resolve the problems by force. Logically, the efforts that one is able to make are very limited.

However, we also believe that if we join efforts and wills to this demand for resolving the region's problems politically, we will also reach U.S. public opinion, the U.S. sectors, the U.S. press; therefore, there will be greater possibilities for resolving the region's problems.

[Question] do you believe the Central American problem will be resolved in the near future or will it take a long time?

[Answer] (?It is) very complex, very difficult. I could not, I would not dare to forecast a date. What I can say is that the situation is becoming increasingly complicated; therefore, it is urgent to carry out practical, mature and serious actions to stop this escalation of complications that have to do particularly with the greater U.S. military involvement in the region.

[Question] There have been many dead on the border with Honduras, especially due to confrontations between Somozists and your men. It has been said in the last few days that the Sandinist government is planning to meet with the Honduran Government to resolve these problems. Is it true that some meetingshave been held and what has happened at these?

[Answer] Yes, the activities of the Somozist guards from Honduran territory have continued. In the last few days the criminal actions of the Somozist guards have continued. Meanwhile, the office of the Honduran secretary of foreign affairs has invited Foreign Minister d'Escoto to visit the border area. We, through the Foreign Ministry, have answered that Nicaragua is prepared to look for means of border control based on the Guasaule agreement. This resulted from the meeting between the Honduran president [words indistinct] and us at which we established the bases to initiate talks to determine forms of vigilance patrols of the border area, where we would (?tolerate) both armed forces and would eventually permit control of the Somozist guards' action from Honduran territory.

[Question] Commander, there has been talk in the foreign media, and in Colombia it has been learned of reports that your government has tried to impose prohibitions on the church that follows the orientations of the pope and that a grave conflict exists between the two wings of the church, the one that follows the pope and the popular church that supports your government. Is this true?

[Answer] I believe the Nicaraguan priests could answer this better. Here there is only one church, a single church that follows the maximum authority, which is the pope. What happens is that, in the face of the revolutionary change in Nicaragua, some priests have a political attitude that is contrary to the revolutionary path. Logically, this causes political antagonism, but never religious antagonism.

[Question] in any case, [words indistinct] the Vatican in the last few days it was said that the pope's visit would be conditional on Father Ernesto Cardenal and Foreign Minister d'Escoto not being present during the visit. What can you say to this?

[Answer] Well, the only thing I can say is that there can never by any conditions for the pope to visit Nicaragua. Foreign Minister d'Escoto will not be here when the pope visits because he has to be at the New Delhi meeting as the (?vanguard) of the Nicaraguan leadership. Father Cardenal will be here during the pope's visit.

[Question] In some statements made by the Catholic Church [words indistinct] a bishop told CARACOL today that that they were prepared to continue to the end, that there was division in the church and that the popular church, which supports you, that is, Father Ernesto Cardenal, has to be dissolved.

[Answer] Well, that statement is a very personal opinion, because in any case there have always been political positions in the Nicaraguan church. Right after the revolution's victory there was a sector of the church, especially among the bishops, that served Somozism, that had been corrupted by Somozism, and we have not labeled that as a church problem but as a human problem. It was the same way when dictator Somoza, the founder of the dynasty, died [passage indistinct]:

[Question] [words indistinct]

[Answer] No [words indistinct] I would say that the church [word indistinct] is with the revolution, that there are some preists as well as bishops who oppose the revolution.

[Question] Commander, returning to the subject of Honduras -- and we can include Costa Rica and El Salvador -- you have leveled some charges against the U.S. Government (?that have included) a common denominator during your government. They have also leveled [words indistinct] of charges. They claim that the junta over which you preside is acting as a bridge to send weapons to El Salvador and to try to destabilize governments such as those of Honduras and Costa Rica.

[Answer] What I can tell you is that the principal supplier of arms to the Salvadoran revolutionaries is the U.S. Government. Every time it gives more arms to the Salvadoran Army, it is supplying arms to the guerrillas, who seize them (?in combat).

[Question] You do not supply arms or personnel to fight specifically in El Salvador?

[Answer] The Salvadoran people have sufficient history and men to have any need for [words indistinct] men from Nicaragua to fight their struggle.

[Question] [words indistinct] against your government, specifically made by former Commander Eden Pastora at a news conference in Bogota. He claims that Nicaragua was for a long time in the hands of one family, the Somozas, and that now it is in the hands of nine families: Yours, that of Sergio Ramirez, that of d'Escoto and Cardenal. What do you have to say to this?

[Answer] I would say that this statement has no basis in fact. In any case, it is a collective leadership; it is not a family leadership but a collective leadership -- rather then being in the hands of one person like Mr Pastora.

[Question] He says you are enjoying the sinecures that the Somoza family had, that you now have [words indistinct] sinecures that Somoza had before.

[Answer] [Words indistinct]

[Question] [Words indistinct] nevertheless, the Costa Rican Government has said in the last few days that [words indistinct] San Juan River, that you do not let them navigate the river, that they have a right to navigate on the river.

[Answer] A commission on which the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments are represented has been formed on this. The commission has met on several occasions. We plan to contiue these meetings. At theis moment Nicaragua and Costa Rica are propitiating a climate that will help bring our governments closer together and that will help (?resolve the problems that exist).

[Question] What do you consider so far the greatest accomplishments of the reconstruction government in your country that have resulted in truly important achievements for the Nicaraguan people?

[Answer] [Words indistinct] the greatest has been the literacy campaign [words indistinct] great participation by the people. Its fruits have been encouraging and we are giving it continuity [words indistinct] over 1 million Nicaraguans registered, which is an unprecedented figure [words indistinct].

[Question] Commander, Cuba (?is still being accused) of strong intervention in Nicaragua, especially in the training of the Sandinist militia. What do you have to say about this?

[Answer] I would say that we have cooperation from Cuba, just as the United States [words indistinct] U.S. presence [words indistinct]. From Cuba we have enjoyed extensive solidarity (?with teachers, etcetera), solidarity that we requested from the United States and on which we have had no response (?as we have from Cuba).

[Question] It has been said that the largest part of your budget is spent in arming rather than on social programs or programs that tend to favor the people.

[Answer] (?What I can say) is that on the question of arms, we are not [words indistinct].

[Question] How are you in international affairs? What countries are cooperating with the reconstruction?

[Answer] We continue to have the very fraternal cooperation of governments such as Venezuela, Mexico [words indistinct] we have had great cooperation with the Central American governments, the Colombian Government also, Brazil [passage indistinct].

[Question] [Words indistinct] have your country's relations improved now that President Belisario Betancur has taken office? Specifically, (?what is the status of the San Andres claim)?

[Answer] Yes, relations have improved with President Belisario Betancur. We believe that in these moments one must seek to stress all those points that unite the Latin American peoples and downgrade other points that cause division, that cause friction. This is the hour of Latin American unity.

[Question] (?Are you insisting on the claim over San Andres or not)?

[Answer] I insist that this is not the time to stress points that separate or set us apart; it is the time to search for points of agreement and to downgrade the others.

[Question] You said that Foreign Minister d'Escoto will represent his government at the nonaligned meeting in India next week. Specifically, what position is Nicaragua taking to that meeting?

[Answer] Nicaragua will be taking above all the concern of the Central American peoples framed in a [words indistinct] the common problems of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. These have to do with the defense of our sovereignty, the defense of our nationality and the common struggle in the face of the economic crisis that is lashing the world and especially the region.

[Question] (?Are you pleased) with Colombia's membership in the Nonaligned Movement?

[Answer] Of course. We are pleased, and we have backed it.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, EXPORTS INCREASE

PA260426 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] According to an official source, exports of the main agricultural products during the 1982-83 cycle exceeded $300 million, which is $35 million more than during the previous cycle.

The source indicated that the exportable national production totalled 6.7 million qunitals of sugar, coffee, cotton, while meat exports summed up to 16,500 tons.

The country's agricultural production generated 20 million quintals of various products, including basic grains and nontraditional products.

The source added that 2.713 billion cordobas were invested in financing these crops. This amount does not include imports of raw materials and veterinarian products, whose cost exceeded $80 million.

The private agricultural sector alone, which owns 80 percent of the land used in agriculture, received 1.9 billion cordobas for financing, while the people's property area, got loans for 810 million cordobas.

HAVANA NOTES ACTION AGAINST ANTI-SANDINISTS

PA251251 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] The Sandinist People's Army inflicted approximately 30 casualties, counting dead, wounded and prisoners, on a counterrevolutionary band that operated in the area of Wamblan, in the Nicaraguan department of Jinotega. It also seized large amounts of war material from the anti-Sandinist group. Those groups, made up mostly of former Somozist guardsmen, operate from Honduras, where they receive military and economic aid from the Honduran regime and the United States.

NUNCIO DENOUNCES GOVERNMENT CENSORSHIP

PA020316 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The apostolic nuncio announced yesterday that the church has systematically protested the Nicaraguan Government's censorship of information concerning the pope's visit. Prior to the official confirmation of the pope's trip to Nicaragua, the so-called Sandinist Government had banned all publications concerning the pope's visit, with the apparent intention of preventing any speculation about the trip.

Asked about this, Apostolic Nucnio Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemollo was quoted yesterday by the press as saying that we have systematically protested the censorship in general ever since a ban was enforced concerning information about the pope's visit to Nicaragua and Central America. The nuncio told a group of local journalists that the Vatican and the Nicaraguan Government had reached an agreement that the censorship would be lifted once it was decided whether the pope would visit Nicaragua, since there was a possibility that the visit might be cancelled.

Nevertheless, Di Montezemollo said that the terms of the agreement as they understood them have not been fulfilled. He said that the pope's visit should not be politically manipulated.

CASTRO RECEIVES ECUADOREAN ECONOMIC PROPOSAL

PA021432 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0204 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Havana, 1 Mar (EFE) -- Cuban President Fidel Castro today received a letter from Eucadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado requesting support for a recent proposal that the Latin American countries jointly face the economic crisis.

Francisco Proano Arandi, Ecuadorean charge d'affaires in Cuba, personally delivered the letter to Castro in his office in the Palace of the Revolution in Havana this evening.

Proano told EFE that Fidel Castro expressed his "support" for the initiative, which he considered "timely" because of the serious crisis facing the area countries.

The Cuban leader also "praised the Ecuadorean president's concern in favor of realistic formulas to confront the problem," Proano told EFE.

Hurtado's proposal was recently sent to the executive secretaries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and SELA, the most important regional economic organizations, so that they could look for specific measures to implement.

The support of other area chiefs of state has also been sought to allow the Latin American countries to act jointly.

RAUL CASTRO CHAIRS BORDER GUARD ANNIVERSARY FETE

FL020300 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz and Commanders of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque and Ramiro Valdes Menendez this afternoon presided over the main celebration commemorating the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Border Guard Troops. Other members of the Politburo, the high command of the Interior Ministry, and delegations from fraternal countries also attended the ceremony.

Army General Vadim Matrosov, chief of the Border Guard Troops of the Soviet Union, presented the minister of the interior with a replica of the (Laurora) cruiser.

FURTHER DETAILS ON FOREIGN DEBT AGREEMENT

FL022029 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] An important agreement for rescheduling Cuba's foreign debt payments, guaranteed by the governemnts of the countries granting it, was signed in Paris yesterday.

The agreement, which covers the payments due between September 1982 and December 1983, was signed by Raul Leon Torras, minister-president of the Cuban National Bank, and by representatives of the governments of the FRG, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Spain, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Switzerland. New negotiations will be held subsequently in order to reschedule the maturity dates established for 1984.

In August 1982, the Cuban government began negotiations with representatives of the creditor nations to reschedule part of its debt at the medium and long term in convertible currency but it continued to pay the interest on this debt punctually.

The sudden drop in the price of sugar, the country's main export, the withdrawal of important funds which international banks had in Cuba, and an increase in interest rates were the main reasons why the country began these negotiations.

According to the agreement signed in Paris yesterday, Cuba will have a grace period of 3 and 1/2 years and 5 more years to pay 95 percent of the maturities negotiated [vencimientos negociados]. The remaining 5 percent is to be paid in two parts, one in December 1984 and one in December 1985, respectively.

The contract provides for bilateral agreements that permit the resumption of normal financial relations between Cuba and the participating creditor nations.

Leon Torras stated that similar negotiations will be held for the private debt mainly with banks in Western Europe, Japan and Canada in order to complete the rescheduling of part of the debt.

He added that he witnessed the satisfaction of creditor nations over the serious and responsible way in which the Cuban Government faced the consequences of the collapse in sugar prices and the withdrawal of bank loans.

Regarding this, he said, the effort by the Cuban Government and people to face the difficulties is viewed positive. They adopted measures in every area of the economy in order to increase savings and productivity and to continue expanding and diversifying the country's export capacity.

He expressed the Cuban Government's and his own recognition of the understanding and cooperation shown by officials of the main creditor nations.

Leon Torras made particular mention of the attitude of (Michel Candesus), president of the group of representatives of these countries and treasury director at the French Ministry of Economy and Finance.

He praised the valuable contribution of UNCTAD experts who conducted a study of the situation and outlook of the Cuban economy last year. This study, Leon Torras added, confirmed that the economic strategy followed by the Cuban Government was adequate and the country's financial difficulties -- which were attenuated by yesterday's agreement -- stem from external factors.

RODRIGUEZ MEETS WITH ROMANIAN PLANNING OFFICIAL

FL021433 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with (?Ion Triaian Stefanescu) chairman of Romania's State Planning Committee, who is visiting our country to attend talks between agencies of that branch of the economy of the two nations.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed problems dealing with bilateral economic relations, those related to the future realization of common goals, which include various branches of the two economies, as well as problems related to current economic exchanges.

FERNANDEZ MELL MEETS WITH USSR TRANSPORT OFFICIAL

FL021745 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Oscar Fernandez Mell, member of the Central Committee and president of the provincial assembly of the people's government in Havana, has received Viktor Mikhaylovich Kozlov, first deputy minister of the Soviet Ministry of Transport Construction [as heard], in his office.

Fernandez Mell thoroughly explained to Kozlov and other Soviet officials accompanying him the characteristics of the city, its achievements, main difficulties and the transportation problems. Regarding this, Fernandez Mell gave a detailed account of the studies and measures implemented concerning road matters and collective transportation.

REGIONAL CONDITIONS TERMED 'DEPRESSING'

PA030123 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 1 Mar 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Excerpts] Wednesday Pope John Paul II starts a tour of Central America and the Caribbean. Political and news media in the region agree that the pontiff of the Catholic Church will find himself in one of the poorest and most backward regions in the world. As a matter of fact, a depressing state of illiteracy, malnutrition, economic dependence, political instability and acute armed conflicts are included in the natural scenario that John Paul II will tour.

Subject to the ferocious colonial exploitation that lasted almost until the beginning of this century, today the Central American countries are subject to the no less prejudicial pillaging of imperialist transnational companies and local oligarchies.

However, this dramatic panorama of poverty and misery is nothing compared to the drama of political deaths and violence that is occurring in the region. In the past 2 years, more than 50,000 people have died in El Salvador because of the war that the people are waging with heroism and justice against a caste of military officers and oligarchs supported by the United States. In Guatemala, the political repression has caused the deaths of 10,000 people in the last 12 months, while in Nicaragua -- where the war devoured more than 35,000 lives barely 4 years ago -- the language of war is still being heard, mainly in the border region with Honduras, from which bands of former Somozist guards come to attack the Sandinist Revolution.

In Honduras the alleged institutionalization process that was started last year is choking on an economic reality that is increasingly asphyxiating and stumbling through a political situation where the military boot hides behind a civilian government. Although in Costa Rica and Panama the political conflicts have not reached the acute phase of the other nations in the area, those countries are also affected by an economic crisis that gradually undermines their social structures. These are the acute problems that pope John Paul II will encounter during his tour of Central America and the Caribbean.

BURNHAM DENIES DETAINING POLITICAL OPPONENTS

FL021839 Bridgetown CANA in English 1823 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 2, CANA -- Guyana has no political prisoners, and no-one is imprisoned here without first being tried by the courts, President Forbes Burnham has said.

He was commenting on the U.S. State Department 1982 country report on human rights which said there had been several reports of the Guyana Government's opponents being detained for long periods without formal charges being brought against them.

Mr Burnham said: "There is not a single political prisoner here, and no-one, barring no-one, is imprisoned without trial..."

The president added: "This report represents nothing but an attempt to besmirch Guyana's image without justification."

The Guyana president also criticised the U.S. Government's human rights record, saying Washington had "consorted" with South Africa, "which illegally occupies Namibia and which in South Africa itself treats Blacks worse than animals, was supplying arms to Guatemala, and had gone so far as to describe El Salvador's human rights record as improving."

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR NONALIGNED SUMMIT

FL021626 Bridgetown CANA in English 1557 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 2, CANA -- Guyana's Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson, has left here for New Delhi, India, where he will attend a meeting of foreign ministers beginning tomorrow in preparation for the Seventh Summit of Non-Aligned Countries' leaders.

A government statement said the other members of the Guyana delegation will be the permanent representative to the United Nations, Noel Sinclair and head of the Economic Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, James Matheson.

The two-day meeting of foreign ministers is being preceded by a meeting of officials. The leaders of the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement will meet from March 7 to 11.

Guyana's President Forbes Burnham has indicated that the government will be sending a strong delegation to the summit.

OPPOSITION PARTY ACCUSATIONS ON 1983 BUDGET

FL030030 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Guyana's opposition People's Progressive Party -- PPP -- has accused the Burnham government of rushing the 1983 budget through parliament. In a statement issued in Georgetown, the PPP said the government's action was designed to reduce the absolute minimum traditional scrutiny of the estimates by opposition parties in the house.

The statement said that an austerity budget showing no increase in expenditure over last year was presented in the National Assembly by Vice President for Finance and Economic Planning Desmond Hoyte in mid-February.

The PPP statement said the budget presentation had papered over the plight of state-sector employees, the poor level of services, bad conditions of work and lack of job security. The opposition party also said the budget had failed to reflect the overall disastrous picture of government spending.

EEC ASKED TO SET GUARANTEED PRICE FOR ACP SUGAR

FL021800 Bridgetown CANA in English 1705 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 2, CANA -- The opposition Working Peoples Alliance (WPA) has called on the European Community to set a guaranteed price for sugar it receives from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations under the home trade and aid convention and to scrap what the party described as the community's vague price-fixing formula.

"The formula permits the fixing of the price for ACP sugar to be linked to unspecified economic conditions prevailing in the European Economic Community," the WPA said in a statement issued in Georgetown.

"The price must be a guaranteed price and, to qualify to be called a guaranteed price, it must cover the cost of production of all efficient producers, those bedevilled by formidable ecological conditions and those with special transportation difficulties."

The opposition group suggested that the price paid by the EEC for ACP sugar should include an element of compensation for losses suffered on the world market because of what it called the depressing effect of EEC sugar at artificial prices on that market.

"This is one way in which the EEC can directly liquidate the losses it has helped to impose on sugar-exporting countries of the ACP," the WPA remarked.

The WPA called for the setting up of a price stabilisation fund by the EEC and the ACP countries, and said machinery and other inputs for the sugar industry must be traded at a specialised exchange rate which eliminates the peak inflations of recent years.

"The ACP should also negotiate with the EEC the supplying of resources for a sugar rehabilitation programme," the WPA suggested.

The recommendation followed a Caribbean technology policy studies project recently conducted by the University of Guyana, the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the International Development Research Centre, on the ways of meeting the threat to sugar posed by the high fructose corn syrup and sucro-chemicals industries.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

GOVERNMENT OFFERS TO HOST C.A. DIALOGUE

PA021507 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1438 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, 2 Mar (EFE) -- The Dominican Republic has offered to host any negotiations seeking to put an end to the conflicts in Central America, the Foreign Ministry reported in a communique published today.

The communique stated that the Dominican Republic fully supports any dialogue to resolve Central America's problems, but adds that the use of Dominican territory would require the participation of all the foreign ministers of the countries in conflict.

"Our opinion is that such a meeting must not exclude anyone; that is, if they are going to negotiate and raise questions seeking to reach agreement, all the countries having these problems must participate," the communique added.

In this way the Dominican Republic has joined Mexico, Venezuela and Panama in offering to play a more important role in resolving the Central American problems, especially the civil war in El Salvador and the border disputes between Honduras and Nicaragua.

MEXICO

SEPULVEDA IN TOKYO, ENROUTE TO NONALIGNED SUMMIT

FL022140 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2126 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Tokyo, 2 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda arrived in Tokyo today for a 2-day visit prior to his trip to New Delhi where he will attend the Nonaligned Movement Summit.

A Japanese Embassy spokesman indicated that Sepulveda will meet with Emperor Hirohito. Friday, he will meet with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, with whom he will hold goodwill talks.

BRIEFS

PST NATIONAL COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION -- Ricardo Govela Autrey, official spokesman of the Workers Socialist Party, PST, has reported that his party will base its policy on total support for Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado's government platform. He also reported that the PST's National Committee was reorganized as follows: Pedro Etienne has been appointed new secretary general; Graco Ramirez has been appointed organization secretary; and Antonio Ortega has been appointad president of the National Commission for Electoral Affairs. [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 27 Jan 83 p 3 PA]

NEW COAST GUARD VESSELS -- President Miguel de la Madrid commissioned three new Coast Guard vessels in Veracruz on 24 February. He was accompanied by the defense minister and other high government officials. The vessels were built in Cadiz, Spain. [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 25 Feb 83 p 6 PA]